Assets of IPCL

*135 SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) when the assets of IPCL were revaluated;

(b) the revaluated asset value of IPCL; and

(c) the approximate replacement cost of IPCL at present?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) The company.has, till date, not revaluated its fixed assets.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) The process of assessment of the replacement cost of fixed assets of IPCL has started and not yet been completed.

Improvements in PDS

*136. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to help States improve the PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure ^expansion of PDS to those below the poverty line; and

(d) what is the position of off-take of foodgrains during the last five financial years?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Government has decided to help the State Governments in better targetisation of Public Distribution System (PDS) and to enhance the food security of the people living below poverty line by doubling the quantity of foodgrains from the present 10 kg. per family per month.

PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of PDS commodities up to the central godowns and making them available to the State Governments. The responsibility for distribution to the consumer through Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and administration of PDS rest'with State Governments/UT Administrations. In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities in PDS to the consumers in a transparent and accountable manner a Model Citizens' Charter for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has also been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption. Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government also have advised the State Governments to more substantially involve Gram Panchayats in supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes financial assistance is provided to States/UTs for construction of godowns of small capacity up to 2000 MT and for purchase of vans/trucks for strengthening PDS. The assistance is given as 50% grant-in-aid and 50% loan. Financial assistance is also provided for organizing training courses for upgradation of skills of officials dealing with PDS and for purchase of computer system to link the Directorate of Food & Civil Supplies in States/UTs to monitoring network through National Informatics Centre (NIC).

(d) The position of offtake of foodgrains from Central Pool for PDS during the last five financial years is as under:

(in '000 tonnes)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Total
1994-95	7897.20	4696.40	12593.60
1995-96	9332.90	5159.40	14492.30
1996-97	11014.30	8370.10	19384.40
1997-98	9764.84	6938.59	16703.43
1998-99	10620.861	7823.512	18444.373

Unmanned Railway Crossings in Maharashtra

*137 SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of unmanned Railway crossings in Maharashtra;

(b) how many accidents have taken place during the last two years on those crossings and compensation paid to the victims on each occasion; and

(c) what is the number of such crossings proposed to be manned from 1999 to 2001, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) There are 1504 unmanned level crossings in Maharashtra State.

(b) Accidents statistics on Indian Railways are maintained Railway zone-wise and not State-wise. The Zone-wise statistics of accidents